

ARRIVAL OF THE CALEDONIA.

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 5.

The Caledonia has arrived at Boston, bringing dates from Liverpool to the 18th December.

The British Parliament had been occupied principally, since the opening of the session with the affairs of Ireland.

Within the last fortnight the British Islands had been visited with a succession of tremendous gales, causing the most appalling loss of life and property along the coast.

The affairs of Spain were in a tolerably tranquil state, although the Carlists continued their agitations. In the Cortes a fierce attack had been made upon the Administration.

From France there is no intelligence of importance. The health of Louis Philippe was very feeble.

The Agrarian disturbances in Ireland had somewhat subsided. Father Mathew, it is announced, will proceed to America in the New World steamer, early in April next.

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 5, 9 P. M.

In consequence of the telegraph between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh being engaged the whole of Tuesday, in the transmission of the message of the Governor of Pennsylvania to the Legislature, the foreign news and congressional intelligence was held back for some hours. The Legislature was organized on Tuesday, and Mr. Packard, Democrat, was elected Speaker of the House.

The weather is clear and turning much cooler this evening. The Ohio is still rising, with twelve feet water on the Falls.

Hon. Andrew Kennedy died at Indianapolis on Friday, of the small pox. No new cases had occurred. The Eastern failed again this morning, and also the St. Louis mail, which is two or three days behind.

Our Mexican Policy.

From the New York Eve. Post.

Now, in this contest it appears to us very clear that the incompetency and utter inability of Mexico to maintain an independent existence—a decent existence as an independent power—have been made most manifestly apparent. Her leaders have shown the most ardent ignorance of the strength and character of this country as well as their own, and the most disgraceful incapacity in the management of the contest, in every view both civil and military. After spending the last twenty years in one protracted civil war, they appear at the end of it utterly unable to make a decent show of forcible resistance to a foreign foe, and their whole conduct of the contest has been marked by the extreme feebleness, cowardice, and stupidity—so great, indeed, that were it not for the enormous disparity of numbers, and the total rawness of the larger part of our forces, the Mexican laurels would not be worth wearing by a people who have vanquished Britons in equal fight. * * *

Now we ask whether any man can coolly contemplate the idea of recalling our troops from the territory we at present occupy—from Mexico—from San Juan de Ulloa—from Monterey—from Puebla—and thus, by one stroke of a Secretary's pen, reconsign this beautiful country to the custody of the ignorant cowards and profligate ruffians who have ruled for the last twenty-five years? Why, humanity cries out against it. Civilization, Christianity, protests against this reflux of the tide of barbarism and anarchy.

How we are to maintain our control over the country—on what terms, under what contingencies—is a matter of detail, and subject to future events; but we do not believe there lives the American, with a true understanding of his country's interests and duties, who, if he had the power, would deliberately surrender Mexico to the uncontrolled dominion of the mongrel barbarians who, for a quarter of a century, have degraded and oppressed her.

It is wholly immaterial, in this point of view, to hunt up the origin of the war—how it commenced, or through whose fault. The contest is begun—it is indeed substantially over; the money has been spent, the precious lives lost; and the question now is, whether the world, humanity, civilization, Christianity, shall profit by the sacrifices we have made; or whether we shall deliberately surrender the country to the half-bred, murderous braves who call themselves officers, and who live by cutting each other's throats, and by plundering the peaceful, mild, and inoffensive population.

"No party in this country contemplates the dismemberment of Mexico proper, or the annexation of any portion of her population to our own. It would be a disastrous event for the whole confederacy. But we owe it as a duty to ourselves and the general cause of freedom to keep our flag flying at San Juan de Ulloa, and in the city of Mexico, till the progress of time, and the silent effect of our presence our customs, our press, shall have breathed a new life into this unfortunate country, and we have some security that she will not be a curse to herself and to her neighbors."

Prus IX.—His personal appearance is extremely benignant, and he is said to unite with a perfect self-command an indomitable resolution and perseverance. He is entirely absolute in his authority; but he recently summoned his cardinals for advice. On taking a ballot by balls, placed in a box, it was found that the black balls which negated his proposition, very much exceeded the white. He wears a small white cap; and it is said, that having put all the black balls together, he took his cap and placed it over them, saying at the same time to his surprised cardinals, that now the balls were all white; and, thanking them for their advice, dismissed them.

JOLIET SIGNAL.

JOLIET, ILL.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1848.

Democratic State Convention.

We are gratified to witness that there is a great unanimity of opinion, amongst the democratic papers of this State, in regard to the propriety of holding a democratic State Convention to nominate candidates for the offices to be filled at our next State election under the new constitution which doubtless will be adopted by the people at the election to be held for that purpose in March next. The only proper way to bring candidates before the people with any probability of electing them, and maintaining our ascendancy in this State, is by a State convention. It is idle to talk of any other way, if success is our object. It is only by such a convention that the rights, interests and claims of the different portions of the State can be considered, and the ascendancy of republican principles maintained. If we desire to witness concert of action amongst the democracy of Illinois, we must look to the decisions of a convention to accomplish so propitious a result.

Judging from the expressions of opinion which have been made, our democratic brethren throughout the State are in favor of a convention to nominate candidates to be supported by them, at the next August election. Should its deliberations be governed by wisdom, our triumph will be certain. An adherence to regular nominations, has been the secret of our success, and the strength of our party heretofore. "UNION—OUR CHOICE THE NOMINATEES," should be our motto—one which should be upheld and supported by every one who desires the perpetuity of our republican institutions, and the prosperity of our common country.

We are not tenacious about the place of holding the convention, but think that it is due to the northern portions of the State, that it be held at Peoria. It would not be policy for it to be held before the first of May next, as the result of the vote on the new constitution will be known by that time throughout the state, so that delegates can be appointed accordingly.

The State Register and most of the other democratic journals of the State, that have expressed an opinion upon the subject, are in favor of choosing our delegates to the National Convention, also, by the State convention. We are aware that there are many considerations in favor of having our delegates in the National Convention, act together, but we are somewhat inclined to believe that the manner in which they were chosen in 1844 was the correct way—that was by districts. We see no reason why they cannot be selected at the same time and in the same manner the Electors will be—the will of a majority of the democracy could best be attained thereby. The expenses of attending the convention from the extreme sections of the State, would be considerable; consequently there would not be as full attendance of delegates from such portions, as there would be from the vicinity where the convention might be held. These, and other considerations, which might be urged, impel us to the conclusion that the voice of the entire party can best be attained by choosing our delegates to the National Convention as we did in the last Presidential campaign.

The Whigs and the War.

The whig members of Congress, or at least that portion of them who are willing to see their own country disgraced in the eyes of other nations; are introducing resolution upon resolution, charging the commencement of the war upon the President, and for the withdrawal of our armies to the east bank of the Rio Grande. On one vote which was taken for the withdrawal of our forces, we find that forty-one voted in favor of it, and that four of these were whig chairmen of important committees.

It is truly humiliating to every patriot and lover of his country, to witness these attempts of the whigs to counteract the efforts of the administration to bring the war to an honorable conclusion, and to delay, if not defeat, the army bill. Congress, at the commencement of this war, with but sixteen exceptions, two in the Senate and fourteen in the House, voted for a bill, the preamble of which most emphatically declared that Mexico was responsible for the war, and that it existed by her own act. This war which was authorized and supported by both parties in Congress, at its commencement, is now denounced as the President's war! The blood which has been spilt by our brave soldiers, who fought under this declaration of Congress, the injuries inflicted by Mexico upon our government and citizens, are forgotten by the whig partisans of the present Congress when there is a hope of raising capital and of elevating their

own party to power. But can any party succeed by adopting such a course? They have already prolonged the war by cheering up the hopes of our enemies, and by sympathizing with them & inducing them to hold out until they get into power when they are made to believe our troops will be withdrawn from their territory. Will the freemen of this republic sustain a party which is doing every thing to aid and encourage the enemy? Will they be willing to place the party at the helm of the government, who are opposed to maintaining the rights and interests of their own country, and are laboring in behalf of our treacherous enemies.

The indications which have already been presented in Congress, we fervently trust, are not indicative of the designs of the whigs in the House of Representatives, to withhold supplies and reinforcements from our army. We hope there are enough patriotic whigs in the House, who will join with the democrats in protecting our national honor and interests, to vote the necessary supplies. If not, if supplies are withheld, a fearful retribution will await the authors, from an injured people.

It has been suggested that the citizens of this place purchase a Bell for the new Court House, the work on which is progressing rapidly under the new contractors. We trust that our citizens will feel an interest in this matter, and will be willing to contribute liberally to so necessary an object. The town needs a Bell, and so does the county, and it is but just that the inhabitants of this place should purchase it.

A public Installation of the Officers of Mount Joliet Lodge of Free Masons, took place in this village on Thursday evening last. There were a large number in attendance. An able and eloquent address on the principles of masonry, was delivered by W. E. Little, Esq., which was listened to with marked attention.

GEN. SHIELDS.—The citizens of Washington gave a dinner to Gen. Shields and Quitman, in that city, on the 29th ult.—The Union states that it was one of the most brilliant affairs ever witnessed at the capital. The greatest enthusiasm has been displayed by the people in every city and town which this brave Illinoisian has visited, since his arrival from the fields of his gallant exploits.

DROWNED.—A skill while crossing the Illinois river, at Ottawa, on the 5th inst., with six men on board, sunk and three were drowned; the others escaped by swimming to the shore.

THE FREMONT TRIAL.—This trial has already occupied over forty days. It is estimated that it will cost the government over \$60,000. The result cannot be conjectured as yet.

We are under obligations to Hon. Messrs. Breese, Douglass, Wentworth and Smith for valuable public documents.

HOME JOURNAL.—The first number of a new volume of this popular family Journal was issued on the first inst. It contains the commencement of a new American Novel, from a popular pen, which promises to be interesting. It is published by Morris & Willis, N. Y.—price \$2 per annum.

SLOAN'S TANNIN PASTE.—We recommend this article as one of the best adapted for boots and shoes, and for rendering leather pliable and water-proof, that has yet been discovered. Its beneficial effects for the purposes recommended, merits for it an extensive sale. See advertisement in another column.

"ANOTHER HASTY PLATE OF SOUP."—Below we publish an order from Gen. Scott which partakes largely of a "hasty plate of soup." This order is intended to reflect upon Generals Pillow, Worth, and Col. Duncan, who have been arrested for some statements made in reports published in this country, commendatory of the services of Generals Pillow and Worth—Col. Duncan, however, exculpates Gen. Worth from any participation in the matter, or knowledge of the authorship of the letter referred to. The order is singular enough, and shows the extreme sensitiveness of our commander-in-chief in matters of this kind.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, Mexico, Nov. 12, 1847.

The attention of certain officers of this Army is recalled to the foregoing Regulation, which the General-in-Chief is resolved to enforce, so far as it may be in his power.

As yet, but two echoes from home of the brilliant operations of our arms in this basin have reached us; the first in a New Orleans, and the second through a Tampico newspaper.

It requires not a little charity to believe that the principle heroes of the scandalous letters alluded to did not write them, or specially procure them to be written, and the intelligent can be at no loss in conjecturing the authors—chiefs, partisans,

and pet familiars. To the honor of the service, the disease—prurency of fame, not earned—cannot have seized upon half a dozen officers, (present), all of whom, it is believed, belong to the same two colonies.

False credit may, no doubt, be obtained at home, by such despicable self-puffings and malignant exclusion of others; but at the expense of the just esteem and consideration of all honorable officers who love their country, their profession, and the truth of history. The indignation of the great number of the latter class cannot fail, in the end, to bring down the conceited and the envious to their proper level.

By command of Maj. Gen. Scott: H. L. SCOTT, A. A. G.

For the Signal.

Nonsense, Mr. "Cognomen," you have mistaken your man. Now take back that ungentlemanly insinuation "Excellent Christian Uncle." Such slurs, my dear "Cog," are very unkind, and ill become a man of your cloth. We are all aware that you are "ignorant" of the Law, but did not suppose you to be so perfectly "ignorant of the acts of the present court," as you pretend. Nevertheless for your benefit (as well as your conspicuous Editor with his "unlicked" &c.) please examine the Revised Statutes, page 485, Sec. 23, and then ask some school boy to divide the difference between five mills on one dollar—and fifty cents on one hundred dollars.

JAKE UTICA.

Kankakee, Jan. 17, 1848.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAM SHIP NEW ORLEANS.

Items of News from the Seat of War. By the arrival of the steam ship New Orleans, the Delta has received late files of papers from Mexico, containing a few items of interest.

Fifty-eight wagons arrived at Vera Cruz, from Jalapa, on the 20th ult. Ninety five men, under the command of Lieut. Tilghman, were found sufficient to escort them in.

It is rumored that Gen. Marshall, who is at Jalapa, will march on Orizaba, as soon as he can get the necessary ammunition. We give this as we heard it, as a rumor.

Padre Jarauna, the known guerilla chief, is now recruiting in that city.

There are about 2,000 men in Jalapa. Col. Hughes, commandant at Jalapa, has issued orders forbidding gambling and grogshops, limiting the license to certain hotels—requiring the inhabitants to deposit all arms in the arsenal, and seizing all American property in the hands of Mexicans, and holding all Mexicans found with such property responsible therefor.

Our officers are required to resort frequently to the churches of the city, to see that the people are not disturbed in their worship; they are also recommended to testify all proper respect to the religious ceremonies of the country, and by the force of example convince the people that they are the supporters of religion, humanity, and justice.

The Vera Cruz Free American, of the 23d ult., says: "Gen. Twiggs—the hero of Cerro Gordo, and who has been in every battle fought on this side of Mexico—entered the city yesterday morning, and a short time after he arrived the usual salute was fired."

We learn from the Free American, that Lt. Gordon, of the rifle regiment, was shot, day before yesterday, near San Juan del Rio. Although twice struck by the enemy's balls, he is in a fair way of recovery.

Everything is quiet in the city. The Star, of the 9th says:

Taking everything into consideration, barring the dullness of trade, we believe the city of Mexico never experienced palmer days than the present.

THE PROSPECT OF PEACE.—The second train since the occupation of this capital by Gen. Scott leaves the city to-day for Vera Cruz, with a strong and efficient escort. Mr. Trist, the American Commissioner, returns home, the object of his mission—that of negotiating an honorable peace between the two Governments—not having been accomplished.

The Congress at Queretaro is in a state of great disorder—indeed, it is wholly unable to get a quorum. Something was hoped for from the Council of Governors, to whom the question of war or peace, so far as Mexico is concerned, was specially referred. They avowed themselves in favor of peace, at the commencement of their session; but either from fear of Santa Anna, or some worse motive, they adjourned, a day or two since, referring the matter back to the Supreme Government. This is about tantamount to a determination to do nothing whatever. The new President, Anaya, lacks energy and decision, and we fear nothing good is to be expected of him.

The Delta, has gathered some further intelligence in regard to affairs in Queretaro, from passengers by the Orleans. It says:

We are told by several of the intelligent gentlemen who have just arrived from Mexico, that there is no doubt that the Puros are decidedly favorable to the continued occupation of Mexico by the United States, believing that such occupation will secure to that party its darling objects—a Federal and Republican system of Government—and the overthrow of the Church Monopoly. It was this feeling and opinion that induced the retirement of the forty Puros from the Congress at Queretaro.

The Council of Governors of States which met at Queretaro was at last unanimous in favor of renewing negotiations with the United States, the Governor of San Luis Potosi, who was at first strongly in favor of continuing hostilities, having at last surrendered his opinion to the majority.

It is believed that a peace, on the basis

proposed by Mr. Trist, would be acceptable to all the sober and sedate portion of the population, but that it would be resisted and opposed by Santa Anna or some other chiefs, and by the mass of the people.

The Hon. Henry Clay's speech upon the war has been widely circulated through Mexico. It has been received by the Mexicans with great manifestations of pleasure.

On the 17th inst., Gen. Lane, with a detachment, fought the Mexicans, at a place named Matamoros, whipped them, and delivered several prisoners. We have to regret the loss of Lieut. Ridgely, of the artillery, and Asst. Adj't Gen. to Gen. Lane.

Gens. Patterson and Cushing, with between two and three thousand men, arrived at the city of Mexico on the 9th and 10th ults.

From the State Register.

The Canal.

The hiring press in the interest of the foreign trustees, the chief engineers, his satellites and lickspittles, who live upon the crumbs dispensed by his hand, still defend the rotten corruption of their masters and owners. Of them nothing better was to be expected, but we regret to see the Journal of this city lending itself to the vindication of a set of men who have robbed the state, wronged the stockholders, retarded the completion of the canal, deprived our citizens of an avenue to market, and the public treasure of its revenue. When the Journal first alluded to the subject we hoped that an examination of the evidence which was within its reach would work a change of opinion, and that a retraction would follow; but we fear that the editors had rather be governed by the misrepresentation of interested men than take the trouble to investigate the matter for themselves. We are certain that if they were to look into it they would become convinced of their error.

We have, in former numbers, called public attention to the abuses which have been coming to light for several months past, and we rejoice to find that several papers along the canal line have taken up the subject. For two or three weeks we have been awaiting the denouement of further investigations, which are now making, the result of which we shall soon be able to lay before our readers. The subject is one which has no relation whatever to parties or politics. It is one involving the pecuniary interest of our people and the state. It affects the honor of both, and the state credit especially. The early completion of the canal and the redemption of state credit, by beginning to pay our public debt is a subject which lays near the heart of every true Illinoisian. There is but one party upon this subject, and the party comprises almost every voter in the state. There is no division. All agree that the debt must be paid as fast as our resources and energies will permit. It matters not to what political party the individuals implicated in these abuses belong. Whether democrats or whigs, they deserve to be held up to the public indignation, and any press that will prostitute its columns to their defence merely because they belong to the same party with itself, is *particeps criminis* and more guilty than the parties accused.

We have in former numbers exposed the neglect of Messrs. Leavitt and Swift (the trustees of the bondholders) in regard to the great work committed to their management. The former resides in Washington and the other in New York, and neither visits the line for the purpose of directing operations, though each claims for his services the sum of \$5,000 per annum. They did, indeed, visit Chicago last summer, not however for the purpose of expediting the work, which their agents had retarded for the purpose of prolonging their term of service and enabling themselves and their retainer to carry out their schemes of speculation, but to whitewash Mr. Gooding, the chief engineer, against whom the state trustee had entered complaints to the board in New York. During their few days stay in the state they were not known to have devoted more than one day to an examination of the line, and as to the investigation of the charges against Mr. Gooding, about which so much has been said, they did not give the state trustee an opportunity to collect his testimony, but proceeded summarily to an *ex parte* trial, which, of course, resulted in the exculpation of their agent and pet—the chief engineer. Upon this acquittal their friends contend that the public should be satisfied of the falsity of the state trustee's charges. Notwithstanding this assumption public inquiry has not been stifled, nor the iniquitous conduct of the canal functionaries suffered to remain *sub rosa*. A portion of it has been brought into the light of day, and ere many weeks elapse further developments will expose the most heartless oppression and the most infamous corruption ever heard of in Illinois.

The course pursued by the chief engineer was not unexpected by those who were acquainted with the man at the time of his appointment. His conduct when in office under the old internal improvement system outraged the public mind, as the achievements of the state fully show. So aggravated were the abuses complained of that between fourteen hundred and fifteen hundred individuals, conversant with his conduct, brought them to the notice of the legislature in the form of a petition for reform. When his name was suggested for the office of engineer under the new establishment, many of the bondholders protested against his appointment, but the board, maugre their pledges, gave him the place.

Since his appointment under the present regime he has been guilty of preventing completion at the lettings, in order to secure the jobs at high rates for his relatives. He has done this by notifying those whom he supposed would be bidders

that he should require materials which could be obtained only at a distance of several hundred miles from the work, when in fact he intended, in case his schemes of favoritism should succeed, to accept materials that could be got within fifteen or twenty miles of the canal. He has also overruled, for the benefit of these same relatives, the orders of his assistant engineers, requiring the work to be done in a substantial manner, capable of resisting the action of the frost and the breaking up of ice, and in consequence of these special favors the work constructed gave way. Now it may be said that the engineer really believed the work was strong enough; if so, it proves that he knew less about the business than his assistant. The same anxiety to take care of individual contractors was manifested in his refusal to agree to an increase of the wages of the laborers (on the summit division we believe) when they struck for a slight advance. He preferred rather that the work should stop than add twelve and a half cents a day to each laborer's pay. Some of the contractors proposed to give it, but he was afraid it would injure others, and he would not permit it. He lost nothing by it. It prolonged his term of service and put more money in his purse. What was it to him whether the canal was ever finished? He has also been in the habit of borrowing money of the contractors. In the state of New York, and we believe in other states, this practice, when detected, invariably subjects the engineer to immediate removal from office. No matter how spotless his character may be, this act alone is considered good ground of removal, and it cannot be averted by proof that no act of favoritism has grown out of this relationship between the engineer and contractor. In the case of our engineer there is evidence that he has been influenced by his relationship, and that contractors have been induced to lend him money to secure official favors. All these acts appertain exclusively to the engineer, as engineer, and not to his office of agent of the foreign trustees, who have empowered him to act for them. Should we see proper to go into his acts as agent, we could a few items unfold which would not compare unfavorably with his administration as engineer. We will, however, give him the benefit of the plea of want of independence, and pass on to look into the character of the man, whose pet he is—Mr. Leavitt—who seemed to think that he himself was on trial when the conduct of Mr. Gooding was undergoing the *ex parte* investigation to which we have alluded.

(The Register here enters into an examination of the character of Mr. Leavitt, and states that he has "manifested much zeal in behalf of Illinois, but more in behalf of himself," and exposes his fruitless attempt to bribe two senators of the Legislature which passed the canal loan bill, knowing that his pockets would be "seriously compromised" by its failure.)

In conclusion, we will say in reply to the charge made by Gooding's newspapers, that the quarrel between him and Oakley is a personal one, is false. Every body at Chicago knows that neither Mr. Gooding nor any of his subs would give Mr. Oakley any information in relation to canal matters. Mr. Oakley entered upon the duties of his office comparatively ignorant of matters connected with it, and it was his right to have access to all the books and papers, and it was the duty of the sub officials to exhibit them, together with such verbal information as would afford him a thorough knowledge of the situation of canal matters. The Journal of this city attempts to make it appear that Mr. Oakley is not very smart. No wonder that he is regarded as dull when he is in his own office surrounded by such violent enemies.

Another Steamboat Disaster—Tremendous Explosion. By the officers of the steamer Declaration, we learn that the steamer Sea Bird, lying at Cape Girardeau, lower landing, caught fire about one o'clock on Thursday morning, Jan. 6th, and was entirely destroyed, by the explosion of twelve hundred kegs of powder in the hold. The report was terrific, and the concussion so great as to cause extensive damage to the buildings in the town. The College was seriously damaged, by the destruction of windows, ceiling, and portico, to the amount of several hundred dollars. A part of the boiler was blown across the river, and the anchor entirely over and beyond the College. The Sea Bird was bound from New Orleans to St. Louis, and so heavily laden as to be unable to come over the bars between here and the Cape. She had dropped down to the lower end of the town, where she had been lying for two or three days.

We are happy to state that no person was injured. As soon as the fire was discovered, the alarm was given that there was powder on board, and every inhabitant, old and young, fled from the town and escaped injury. The jar was distinctly felt at Cairo. We did not learn how the fire originated, or anything relative to insurance of boat or cargo.—St. Louis Union.

The steamer Planter burst her boilers at Jones' Ferry, Twelve Mile Island, on the Mississippi, on the 5th inst. The result was the death of five persons, and the injury of a number.

The steamer Beardstown came in collision with another boat opposite Portage des Sioux, on the Mississippi on the 5th and sunk.

GALENA AND CHICAGO RAILROAD.—Proposals for furnishing timber for this road were passed upon by the Board of Directors at a recent meeting. Contracts to furnish twenty-five miles of the line were entered into. The balance—sufficient to furnish the line to Fox River will be contracted for in the early part of next year.